

4 Results

4.1 Stakeholders, Needs & Issues By County

This section of the document contains the results from the information-gathering process within each county. **Important Note:** In many of the meetings held in individual counties, there were issues brought up which are not consortium issues, or issues that can or should be addressed at the consortium level. These concerns have all been documented in the meeting minutes from those meetings (which all appear in an appendix to this document), but they may not be repeated or documented in this section. The concentration in this document was on items relevant to and addressable by the consortium.

Appendix D – Radio Inventory Summary contains a detailed listing of the radio inventories of those agencies who answered questionnaires. If questionnaires were not answered, there may not be an entry for those agencies. The one notable exception is Fallon County, where Chuck Lee sent the Project Manager a good deal of information about radios in that county.

4.1.9 McCone County

County Representative: Mistica Hisdahl, County DES Coordinator. 406-485-2347

Number Of County Stakeholder Questionnaires Returned: 4

Number Of County Agencies Represented By Questionnaires: 4

4.1.9.1 County Stakeholder Interactions

The following matrix details the major stakeholders in the county and how they interact with each other.

McCone County		Montana Highway Patrol	McCone County Sheriff	McCone County Road Dept	Town Of Circle	McCone County Health Clinic	Roosevelt County Fire Dept	Wolf Point Fire	BLM	US Forest Service	McCone County Dispatch	FBI	FWP	DNRC	FBI	MDOT	Montana Army National Guard	Fort Peck Indian Reservation	Roosevelt County, MT	Richland County, MT	Dawson County, MT	Prairie County, MT	Garfield County, MT	McCone County, MT	McCone County Fire Warden	McCone County Coroner	TAB Electronics
Key:																											
E - Emergency Basis Only																											
B - Emergency & Administrative Basis																											
Montana Highway Patrol																											
McCone County Sheriff	E																										
McCone County Road Dept.	E	E																									
Town Of Circle	E	E	E																								
McCone County Health Clinic	E	E	E	E																							
McCone County Fire Dept.	E	E	E	E	E																						
Roosevelt County	E	E	E	E	E	E																					
Wolf Point Fire	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																				
BLM	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																			
US Forest Service	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																		
McCone County Dispatch	E	B	E	E	E	B	E	E	E	E																	
FBI	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																
FWP	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E															
DNRC	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E														
FBI	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E													
MDOT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E												
Montana Army National Guard	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E											
Fort Peck Indian Reservation	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E										
Roosevelt County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E									
Richland County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E								
Dawson County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E							
Prairie County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E						
Garfield County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E					
McCone County Fire Warden	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E				
McCone County Coroner	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E			
McCone County DES	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E		
TAB Electronics	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	

Figure 20 – Communication Interactions, McCone County



4.1.9.2 Questionnaire Results

McCone County Road Dept.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

05/16/2005

Location of Agency:

Circle and North McCone (1 mile South of Missouri River)

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Not answered.

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

One simplex

One duplex

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

39.82 – simplex channel – most used

156.195 – repeater outputs and talk around – used very little, not enough radios

159.105 – repeater inputs – used very little, not enough radios

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

60%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Annoying with skip interference.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Severe terrain, gaps

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Yes, need better coverage over all county.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No. Yes would be desired.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

30 – simplex.

B. Number of Portable Unit:

1 – simplex.

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Very little as dispatch office operates mostly on a different frequency.

B. From where?

Circle Law Enforcement office.

C. Hardware Used?

Motorola command STAR light at dispatch. Desk set at South shop. Radio and desk set at North shop.

D. Number of Positions?

1 dispatch, 1 South shop, 1 North shop.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

No.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Not answered.

8. What is good about your current system?

Better then nothing.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

There is no coordination with other agencies as we have not the same systems. Would be nice in case of fires when they need our tanker services.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Not answered.

B. On an emergency basis:

Fire department and law enforcement.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Direct communication with field operations some days skip so bad we cannot communicate with employees on simplex.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

- 1. County wide mobile to mobile*
- 2. Communication with other county depts*
- 3.*

- 4.
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Cannot afford new radios or different radios for duplex systems.*
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Our radios are units other agencies have quit using and are so obsolete that parts are hard to get. At different times during the year skip interference is so bad we can barely talk on our units. We use them year round but in winter storms we really need them on emergency runs for standard motorists stuck in snow banks on blizzard days.



McCone Co. Sheriff's Office.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

06/06/2005

Location of Agency:

*905 B Ave
Circle, MT 59215*

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Paul Skyberg

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

*3 Simplex
2 Duplex*

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

- 1) Sheriff N. RPTR Tx 155.760-506; Rx 153.875-743*
- 2) Sheriff Circle RPTR Tx 506; Rx 506*
- 3) Sheriff Remote Base 155.760-506/460 or 450 mhz link Mt. Antelope to dispatch*
- 4) EMS Page 155.285*
- 5) EMS Amb-Hosp 155.280*

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

95%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Acceptable.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Not answered.



D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Yes, There are numerous weak or dead spots mainly around portions of the perimeter. Gaps and Antenna patterns.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No. Mobile to dispatch coverage would be adequate. We don't have that either.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

5 – sheriff; 15 – fire; 2 ambulance

B. Number of Portable Unit:

7- sheriff; 11 – fire; 10-12 - ambulance

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

4 mobile sheriff's units are P25 enabled.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

24/7

B. From where?

Single permanent location. No back up or secondary.

C. Hardware Used?

Motorola Command Star Lite.

D. Number of Positions?

1

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Should have mutual aid channels.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

All/sheriff, EMS, DES, Fire

8. What is good about your current system?

Most of the county is covered.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Lack of P25 to dispatch.

EMS does not take full advantage of the radio channel set aside for them.

Need better coverage.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Valley and Roosevelt counties

B. On an emergency basis:

All surrounding counties.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Traffic stops

Accidents

Arrests

Crime-in-progress

Investigations

Pursuits

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

1. *Better trained dispatchers*

2. *Encryption through dispatch*



3. *Complete coverage county wide through dispatch*
4. *Encryption through other LEAs*
5. *Redundant backup emergency operations center*

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

1. *Affordability*
2. *Reliability*
3. *Operability*
4. *Simplicity & Flexibility combined*
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Not answered.



Redwater Valley Ambulance Service, Inc.

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

Not answered.

Location of Agency:

*P.O. Box 567
Circle, MT 59215*

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

20 personnel/volunteer ambulance service

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

*9
1/2 duplex*

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

*1) 155.280
2) 155.340
3) 155.325
4) 155.385
5) 153.905
6) 154.070
7) 155.280
8) 155.760
9) 155.760*

*Band: VHF
DTMF: Yes
Rear Control: No
Scan: Yes
No./Channels: 160*

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?



40%

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Fair to unacceptable.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

All of the above.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Not answered.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

Yes.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

2

B. Number of Portable Unit:

20

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

911 Center

B. From where?

McCone County Dispatch Center (Sheriff's office).

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered.

D. Number of Positions?

Not answered.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

Not answered.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Not answered.

8. What is good about your current system?

Not answered.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Not answered.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Not answered.

B. On an emergency basis:

Critical access – fire, law enforcement, hospital

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

Day to day we usually respond to daily pager/radio checks.

In an emergency, we communicate by radio and cell phone.

- 12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.**

Not answered.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- 13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.**

Not answered.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

- 14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.**

Not answered.



Town of Circle

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

Not answered.

Location of Agency:

Not answered.

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Ron McFarland

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

1 Simplex

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

Not answered.

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

95% of town limits.

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Fair plus.

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Can't receive in buildings.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

Not answered.

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

No, do not need.

4. Current Loading

A. Number of Mobile Units:

Not answered.

B. Number of Portable Unit:

2

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

No.

6. Dispatch

A. How is dispatch conducted?

Not answered.

B. From where?

City office.

C. Hardware Used?

Not answered.

D. Number of Positions?

Not answered.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

Not answered.

7. Sharing of System

A. Is your system currently being shared?

No.

B. Which parts and with whom?

Not answered.

8. What is good about your current system?

Adequate communication between city employees.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Not answered.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?**A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:**

Don't need to communicate with other agencies. However on an emergency basis, it may be nice for city workers to talk with dispatch for water and sewer line problems.

B. On an emergency basis:

Not answered.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

City employees to city office.

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

Not answered.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.

Not answered.



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Not answered.

4.1.9.3 County Concerns or Issues

1. Communications Improvements

The following pie chart depicts the communications improvements desired by the responding stakeholders in this county:

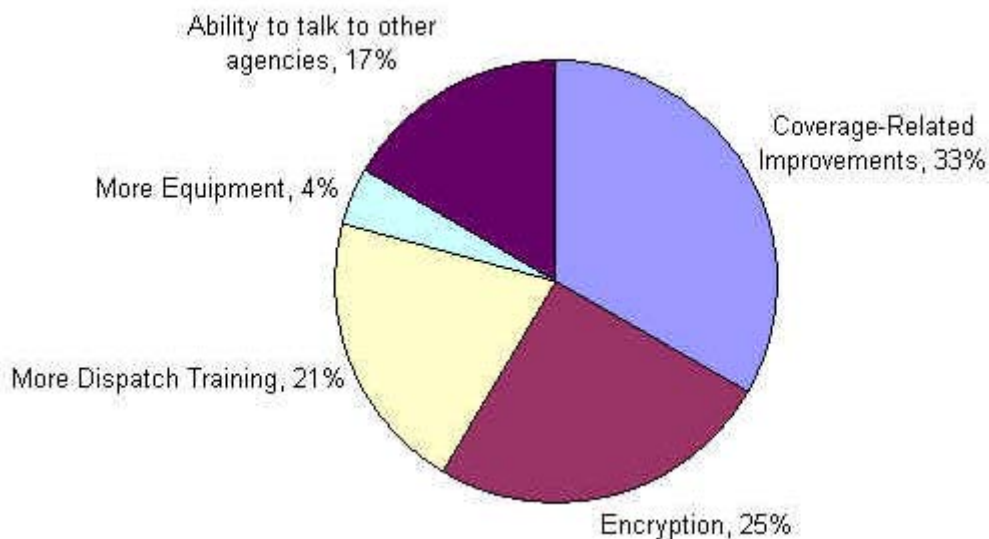


Figure 21 – Communications Improvements, McCone County

How to read this chart:

Stakeholders were asked to list, in priority order, the top five communications improvements they would like to see. Those items ranked higher were given a higher point value than those ranked lower. A percentage was then calculated. If the chart contains less than five “wedges,” this means the stakeholders did not list the full five possible items.

2. Success Factors

The following chart depicts the success factors considered critical by the responding stakeholders in this county in order for the Eastern Tier radio project to be successful.

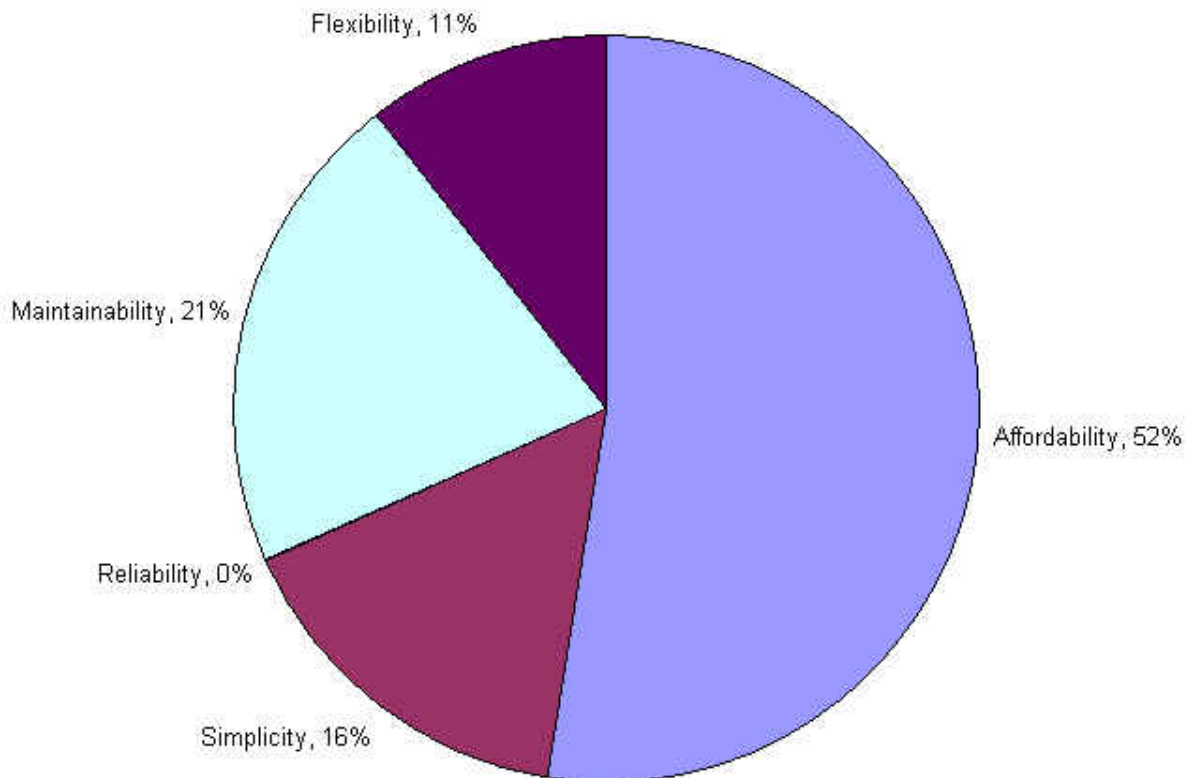


Figure 22 – Critical Success Factors, McCone County

How to read this chart:

Stakeholders were asked to list, in priority order, the top five factors they felt were most necessary for the Eastern Tier radio project to be successful. Those items ranked higher were given a higher point value than those ranked lower, in order to give higher-ranked items more weight. A percentage for each item was then calculated. If the chart contains less than five items (“wedges”), this indicates the stakeholders did not list the full five possible items.

Some of the same items often appear in both the communications improvements chart and the critical success factors chart. This indicates that these items are very important to the stakeholders.

3. Major Dead Spots

Coverage in McCone County can be very spotty. One large area in the extreme northeastern portion of the county was identified, but as can be seen in the individual answers to the coverage questions in the questionnaires, there are a large number of spots throughout the county where coverage can be poor.

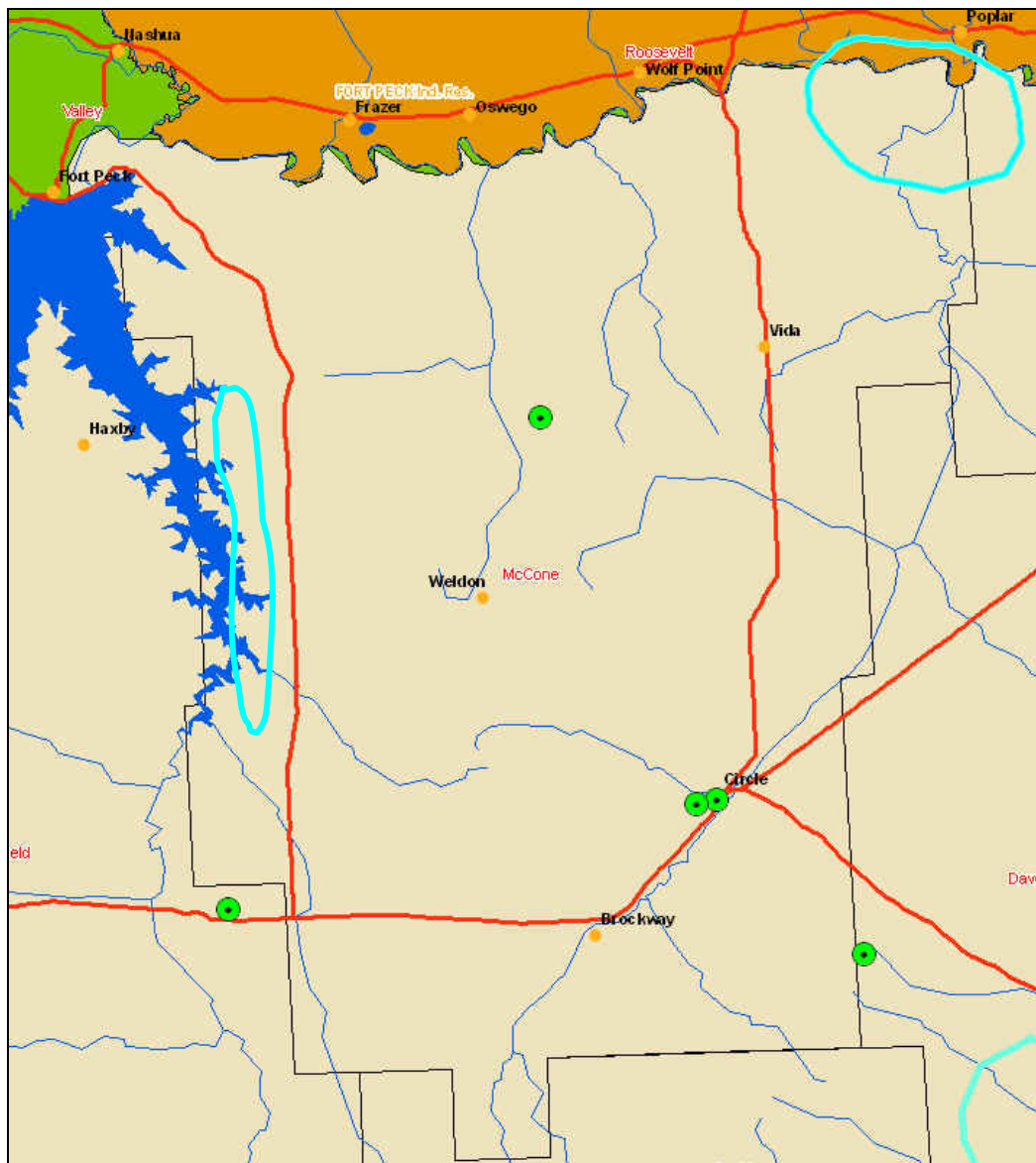


Figure 23 – Dead Spots, McCone County

Note: Location of “dead spots” is very approximate. In addition, some areas within the dead spots will have better reception than others.



4. Lack Of Radios

At the time the Project Manager met with McCone County, there was a serious lack of equipment. The EOC had no radio at all, and the county road crews were working with low-band VHF radios, which means they cannot even use the statewide mutual aid frequencies.